



## BIOGRAPHY

### Jim Shrosbree

#### BIRTHPLACE

Jim Shrosbree was born in Chicago, Illinois.

#### CHILDHOOD

When Mr. Shrosbree was three, his family moved to California. They lived in San Diego, then Northern California and Idaho. His first encounter with art occurred when he was in first or second grade. In San Diego he had access to a view of naval ships, and in school, there were easels in the classroom and painting time. He liked to paint ships. He also had a great play area at home. He and his friends made bricks from clay and built a clubhouse. They would dig deep holes, get inside, and put branches over themselves. He considers this imaginative play his first experience of being an artist and inventing a world.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. Shrosbree felt he wasn't going anywhere in college and dropped out. His friends encouraged him to take a drawing course, which led him to study art. His painting teacher wanted an assistant in ceramics, and when he came into the room, which had large sculptural pieces with figures painted on them, he says he "came alive." He compares work with clay to his childhood art projects. He graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree in Ceramics at the University of Montana in Missoula in 1973.

#### POSITION

Chair, and Associate Professor of Art, Maharishi University of Management, Fairfield, Iowa

#### INSPIRATION/INFLUENCE

Mr. Shrosbree sees Henri Matisse as an influence for drawing and color; and he deems important the artists Constantin Brancusi, Paul Klee, Jean Arp, Man Ray, and Marcel Duchamp. He was interested in the

"spontaneous creativity of the human subconscious mind" and what Mr. Shrosbree refers to as Arp's "chance operations." Arp made collages with torn paper, letting the pieces fall onto the floor, and Mr. Shrosbree uses this technique in teaching, saying, "That's the composition." The idea is not to second-guess yourself, and that spontaneity is powerful. He likes to consider the play between determination and free will.

Jim Shrosbree was influenced by the late ceramicist Rudy Autio, who taught in Montana. Viewing Autio's works on his web site clearly shows the influence of Henri Matisse's drawings upon Autio, and the influence of Autio's sculpture upon Jim Shrosbree. Mr. Shrosbree hopes that in the classroom, studying his art will kindle the imagination.

#### ART FORM

Mr. Shrosbree works with paint, canvas, and sculpture materials such as ceramic clay, wood, and fabric.

#### WEB SITE

[www.paulkotula.com/artists/shrosbree/index.html](http://www.paulkotula.com/artists/shrosbree/index.html)

[www.mum.edu/faculty/shrosbree\\_jim.html](http://www.mum.edu/faculty/shrosbree_jim.html)

#### ARTWORK DISPLAYED

- Des Moines Art Center
- University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
- Detroit Institute of Art
- Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina